

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows:

1. (currently amended) An ink delivery apparatus comprising a chamber configured to contain ink, said chamber having:
a proximal end; and
opposing side portions having at least one section with a tapered thickness configured to support said chamber and to facilitate at least partial controlled collapse of said chamber in response to a negative pressure and wherein said tapered thickness is configured to resiliently expand said chamber in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain said negative pressure within a pre-determined range.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chamber further comprises a distal end opposite said proximal end, said distal end being rounded.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one section having a tapered thickness in each of said opposing side portions.
4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein each opposing side portion comprises a central portion with thickness that decreases to either side of said central portion.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising rounded side portions at ends of said opposing side portions.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said chamber comprises an elastomeric material.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said chamber comprises a EDPM/Butyl material.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fitment coupled to said proximal end of said chamber.

9-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) An ink delivery assembly, comprising:
at least one pressure tuned ink chamber having
a proximal end and a distal end; and
a first pair of opposing side walls, each said wall having a thickness and a section where said thickness tapers and is configured to resiliently expand in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain a pressure within a pre-determined range; and
a fitment coupled to said chamber.

18-29. (cancelled)

30. (original) The assembly of claim 17, wherein said apparatus further comprises a plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers.

31. (original) The assembly of claim 30, wherein said plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers comprises three chambers.

32. (original) The assembly of claim 30, wherein said plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers comprises a plurality of ink colors, each color being separately contained within one of said plurality of chambers.

33. (original) The assembly of claim 30, further comprising a sealing gasket disposed at least partially between said plurality of chambers and said fitment.

34. (original) The assembly of claim 30, wherein said fitment is configured to be coupled to a print head.

35. (currently amended) A print device, comprising:
at least one pressure tuned ink chamber having
a proximal end and a distal end; and
a first pair of opposing side walls, each said wall having a thickness
and a section where said thickness tapers to facilitate resilient expansion of
said chamber in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain a
negative pressure within said chamber within a pre-determined range;
a fitment coupled with said chamber having a fluid interconnect; and
a print head coupled to said fitment.

36. (previously presented) The device of claim 35, further comprising a bubble generator in said fitment.

37. (currently amended) The device of claim 35, wherein said chamber is configured to at least partially collapse in response to [[a]] said negative pressure to maintain said negative pressure within [[a]] said determined range.

38. (previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein said tapered sections are opposing and each comprise central portion with thickness of said tapered sections decreasing to either side of said central portion.

39. (original) The device of claim 35, wherein said assembly further comprises a plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers.

40. (original) The device of claim 39, wherein said plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers comprises three pressure tuned ink chambers.

41. (original) The device of claim 40, wherein said plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers comprises a plurality of ink colors, each color being separately contained within one of said plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers.

42. (original) The device of claim 41, further comprising a sealing gasket disposed at least partially between said plurality of pressure tuned ink chambers and said fitment.

43. (original) The device of claim 35, wherein said fluid interconnect is configured to fluidly couple a print head and said chamber, and further comprising a second fluid interconnect, said second fluid interconnect being configured to fluidly couple an ink supply and said chamber.

44. (original) The device of claim 35, wherein said chamber comprises an off-axis ink supply.

45. (original) The device of claim 35, wherein said chamber comprises an on-axis ink supply.

46. (original) The device of claim 35, wherein said fitment is configured to directly couple with a print head.

47-57. (cancelled)

58. (currently amended) A method of delivering liquid ink, comprising:
providing at least one pressure tuned ink chamber containing an ink, said chamber including side walls comprising at least one section with a wall thickness that tapers;
establishing a negative pressure in said chamber;
supplying said ink to a print head; ~~and~~,
regulating a level of said negative pressure within a pre-determined range using said section of tapered wall thickness, while at least partially resiliently collapsing a portion of said chamber in response to said negative pressure; and
resiliently expanding said chamber in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain said negative pressure within said pre-determined range, said section of tapered wall thickness facilitating said expanding.

59. (original) The method of claim 58, wherein said regulating negative pressure comprises substantially resiliently collapsing said chamber over said pre-determined range of said negative pressure.

60. (cancelled)

61. (original) The method of claim 58, further comprising monitoring a level of ink in said chamber.

62. (original) The method of claim 58, further comprising providing notification of a substantial increase in said negative pressure.

63. (original) The method of claim 58, further comprising providing a plurality of said pressure tuned ink supply chambers.

64-68. (cancelled)

69. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said opposing side portions allows said chamber to resiliently expand in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain said negative pressure within a predetermined range.

70. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controlled collapse comprises a decrease in a distance between said opposing side portions.

71. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 17, further comprising a second pair of opposite side portions joining said first pair of opposing side portions to form said chamber, said second pair of opposing side portions being rounded.

72. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 17, wherein said sections of tapered thickness of said first pair of opposing side portions support said chamber while allowing a controlled collapse of said chamber in response to a negative pressure within said chamber.

73. (previously presented) The print device of claim 35, further comprising a second pair of opposite side portions joining said first pair of opposing side portions to form said chamber, said second pair of opposing side portions being rounded.

74. (previously presented) The print device of claim 35, wherein said sections of tapered thickness of said first pair of opposing side portions support said chamber while allowing a controlled collapse of said chamber in response to a negative pressure within said chamber.

75. (cancelled)